



THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF ENERGY AND
ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS
Department of Agricultural Resources
251 Causeway Street, Suite 500, Boston, MA 02114
617-626-1700 fax 617-626-1850 www.Mass.gov/AGR



DEVAL L. PATRICK
Governor

TIMOTHY P. MURRAY
Lieutenant Governor

IAN A. BOWLES
Secretary

SCOTT J. SOARES
Acting Commissioner

November 21, 2007

UPDATE/ADVISORY
National Animal Identification System (NAIS)

On October 30 DAR sent out 10,000 letters to individuals who the Department believed had livestock or poultry on their property. The letter informed them that DAR would like to take this information and upload it onto the USDA National Animal Identification System database. NAIS has been controversial and some producers have made it clear that they felt strongly that they did not wish to participate. Participation is voluntary and the main purpose of the letter was to give individuals an opportunity to "opt out" should they so choose.

Two unfortunate events were associated with this mailing:

1. There was a typo on our part for which we apologize. In one section the letter states that you must notify DAR within 30 days of the date of the letter. In another it states 45 days.
2. Due to situations beyond our control, delivery of the letter was delayed by more than a week.

The result is that many people received this letter with only 10 days to two weeks to respond. It was DAR's intention to provide more time than this for those who choose to "opt out". As a result, we will be honoring the longer time period of 45 days. No data will be uploaded before December 14, 2007.

DAR will of course honor any requests to "opt out". It is not our intention to upload anyone who does not want to be part of the federal program.

For more information, contact:

Joao Tavares joao.tavares@state.ma.us
Mike Cahill 617.626.1794